United Nations A/RES/73/128

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2018

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.52 and A/73/L.52/Add.1)*]

73/128. Enlightenment and religious tolerance

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,[3]

Reaffirming that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, and to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 67/104 of 17 December 2012, 72/136 of 11 December 2017 and 72/176 and 72/177 of 19 December 2017, including on freedom of religion or belief and on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and other related resolutions,

Bearing in mind that States have the primary responsibility to promote human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] Resolution 36/55.

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Acknowledging the diversity of the world and the fact that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, recognizing the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, and encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda includes the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] which provides an overview of the activities that have been carried out, since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 70/19 and 70/20 of 3 December 2015, by the main United Nations entities working in the areas of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace,

Underlining the importance of promoting education, peace, human rights, tolerance and friendship,

Recognizing, in this regard, the key role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in contributing to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture,

Recognizing also the importance of inclusion, mutual respect, respect for human rights, tolerance and understanding, in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

Seriously concerned by intolerance and the existence of discrimination on account of religion or belief, and by the ongoing violence in the world, in which terrorist groups have targeted people for their religion or beliefs,

Considering the value of education, including among others global citizenship education, and religious tolerance in promoting mutual understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs, in order to help to prevent actions incompatible with the Charter and relevant United Nations instruments,

Welcoming, in this regard, all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

Convinced that promoting religious tolerance will contribute to the fulfilment of the goals of universal peace, social justice, friendship, the protection of human rights and the elimination of ignorance and practices of violence,

Emphasizing that States, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, the media and civil society as a whole have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

1. *Welcomes* the invaluable contribution of the United Nations and the relevant entities of the United Nations system to strengthening dialogue in all its forms, including among and within religions or beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding;

2. *Also welcomes* the valuable role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in contributing towards a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world

[4] Resolution 70/1.

[5] A/73/391.

by promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to maintain a common stance in supporting the application of the principles and purposes of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;[3]

4. *Urges* Member States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to this end:

(a) To promote, through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in society at large, a wider knowledge of the diversity of religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

(b) To support various types of intercultural engagement and peacebuilding at the national and international levels;

(c) To support research activities;

5. *Expresses deep concern* about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments, including those carried out in connection with incitement to national, racial or religious hatred;

6. *Invites* Member States to implement appropriate communications strategies, such as wide-scale awareness-raising campaigns in national and international media, as well as through the Internet, and to disseminate educational information on tolerance, non-violence and freedom of religion or belief;

7. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and for the diversity of religions and beliefs.

51st plenary meeting
12 December 2018